

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0024

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (HAYS, WAYNE L.)

SUBJ: CODEL HAYS VISIT TO ATHENS

REF ATHENS 9169 AND PREVIOUS

1. CONGRESSMAN WAYNE HAYS AND PARTY DEPARTED ATHENS AT 2 P.M. FOR LONDON AFTER A JAM-PACKED 22-HOUR STOP IN ATHENS. CHAIRMAN HAYS PLANS TO RETURN TO THE U.S. FROM LONDON TOMORROW. WHILE IN ATHENS HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ORLAN C. RALSTON AND SECRETARY GENERAL DESHORMES OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY. THE CHAIRMAN AND HIS PARTY WERE TRAVELLING IN A SPECIAL AIRCRAFT FROM ATHENS, ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND HE PLANS TO RETURN TO THE STATES VIA COMMERCIAL SERVICE.

2. DURING HIS STOPOVER THE CHAIRMAN HAD A NUMBER OF EXCELLENT AND VERY WORTHWHILE SESSIONS. I MET HIM AT THE AIRPORT AND WE HAD A LENGTHY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS FOLLOWING HIS ARRIVAL, COVERING THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN GREECE AND THE CARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON THE CYPRUS QUESTION, AS WELL AS HAYS' EARLIER STOPS IN ANKARA AND CAIRO. HAYS AND HIS PARTY JOINED US FOR A FAMILY DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT AS DID CONGRESSMAN AND MRS. FLYNT AND THEIR PARTY WHO WERE ALSO IN ATHENS OVER NEW YEAR'S.

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3. HAYS CAME TO THE EMBASSY THIS MORNING AND MET WITH THE

COUNTRY TEAM AND U.S. MILITARY COMPONENT COMMANDERS IN GREECE. THE CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED HIS WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ABOUT U.S. POLICY TOWARDS GREECE AND THE ATTITUDES AND CONDUCT OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL ABROAD IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS.

4. HAYS, ACCOMPANIED BY DESHORMES AND MYSELF, THEN MET WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE AVEROFF. AT THIS MEETING HAYS EXPLAINED THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT PARTICIPATION BY GREECE DURING THE 7 YEARS OF DICTATORSHIP BUT INVITED THE GOG NOW TO RESUME ITS PLACE IN THE ASSEMBLY. HAYS AND AVEROFF ALSO DISCUSSED OTHER MATTERS WHICH ARE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

5. HAYS THEN MET AROUND NOON WITH PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS, ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY DESHORMES AND ME. HAYS, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC ASSEMBLY, REPEATED THE INVITATION FOR GREECE TO RE-ENTER THE ASSEMBLY WITH FULL PARTICIPATION. THERE WAS ALSO A DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS, TURKEY AND OTHER MATTERS BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY.

6. HAYS THEN GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH ABOUT 15-20 INTERNATIONAL AND GREEK JOURNALISTS PRESENT. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE EXPLAINED THE BACKGROUND OF HIS OPPOSITION TO THE DICTATORSHIP, AND HIS EARLIER AMENDMENT RESTRICTING MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO GREECE. HE CITED THE USG DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL ON THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND ALSO MADE SOME COMMENTS ABOUT HIS VISITS TO TURKEY AND EGYPT AND, IN THE CONTEXT OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ABROAD, REFERRED TO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN EHTIOPIA. THE TRANSCRIPT OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE IS BEING REPEATED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.

7. CHAIRMAN HAYS WAS UNABLE TO MEET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS DURING THE TIME FRAME HE WAS IN ATHENS. BITSIOS HAD EXPRESSED INTERESTED IN MEETING WITH HAYS BUT WAS TIED UP UNTIL LATE THIS AFTERNOON WITH AN OFFICIAL VISIT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, AND HAYS WAS UNABLE TO REMAIN IN ATHENS UNTIL BITSIOS WAS FREE EARLY THIS EVENING. BOTH BITSIOS AND HAYS EXPRESSED REGRET AT THEIR INABILITY TO GET TOGETHER
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AND IT WAS AGREED THAT I WOULD TRANSMIT TO BITSIOS THE ESSENCE OF THE CHAIRMAN'S PRESENTATIONS AND COMMENTS TO AVEROFF AND CARAMANLIS. KUBISCH

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